Psalm 145 – Centrality of Praise!

- **READ** Psalm 145

- A. W. Tozer, the late and beloved Christian Missionary Alliance Pastor, Teacher, and author, once wrote these words:

- "The impulse to worship is universal. If there is a race or tribe anywhere in the world that does not worship, it has **NOT** been discovered."

- We can say with certainty that the Creator made mankind to Worship and to Praise!

- **In this great Psalm of David, we have literally an alphabet of praise**! **Each verse** of Psalm 145, in the original language, **begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet**, which was a **fairly common form of Hebrew poetry**.

- In fact, several Psalms have their verses in alphabetical order. The most famous being which Psalm? **Psalm 119. (clusters of 8 verses each)**

- It is, perhaps, in some sense, **like certain children's books that teach the alphabet**. Sometimes, each letter is associated with a picture! **A=Apple, B=Ball**, **C=Cat, D=Dog, etc.**

- But in **Psalm 145, the author, David the King of Israel, the primary objective was NOT to teach the alphabet**!

- **His objective, and I hope ours this morning**, is that individually and collectively, **we would grow in our passion for God expressed in our practice of heartfelt Praise to God!!!**

- This is the message of this great Psalm! It is the subject explicitly announced in the **title, or superscription,** of the Psalm!

- It is the only time, in all of David's 75 Psalms in the Book of Psalms, he ever uses this title. Verse 1, "**A Song of Praise, Of David**."

- Now, there are a **number of ways we could consider** Psalm 145 this morning.

- I've chosen **three basic perspectives** that I hope help us remember the emphasis of this great Psalm of Praise.

- **First of all, Psalm 145** is:

1) **a great <u>resolution, a resolve, a determination</u> to praise God**!

2) **It is also a <u>summons to each of us</u>, or a call, to praise God,**

3) **it is a great <u>model</u> we can use for praise**!

<u>REPEAT these 3 perspectives</u>.

- These three themes more or less **blend in and overlap with each other throughout the Psalm**!

- **We will start, however, with a <u>resolution to Praise</u>**.

Resolution of Praise

- **How is it a resolution**? Resolving to do something requires a certain **level of determination**!

- No doubt some of us, from year to year, make New Year's resolutions.

- Resolved to **read through all of Scripture next year** or **resolved to work out 5 days a week**. **Resolved not to eat ice cream after 6 pm**.

- Perhaps we resolve that we will lose 10 pounds to fit again into our favorite jeans!

- You have great intentions and are resolved!

- In Psalm 145, we should see **David's** <u>deep determination, intention, and resolution</u> to exalt and praise God!

- Oh, that we might have such Holy resolutions!!!

- **<u>Notice the language he uses. Language of determination</u>**!

- We see it in a number of "**<u>I will</u>**" statements!

- **Verse 1, "<u>I will</u> extol you," Verse 2, "Every day <u>I will</u> bless you and praise your name," Verse 5, "I will meditate", verse 6, "I will" declare your greatness**."

- We **see these "I WILL** " repeatedly, which, of course, highlight David's deep resolution!

- We also see his determination in the final verse of Psalm **V. 21: "<u>My mouth</u> will speak the praise of the Lord**

- So, I would like us to see that Psalm 145 **<u>contains</u>** an intended repetition that helps us understand David's resolution to praise God!

- **<u>We should notice the frequency of it!</u>**

- It is an "**<u>EVERY DAY"</u>** activity, as stated in **verse 2**. **<u>Indicating consistency, resolution, and perseverance</u>**! "**Every day, I will bless you**."

- There is a **great passion for God that has to <u>find an outlet</u>**! **<u>It must find expression!</u>**

- **<u>And for David that outlet here is a deep individual determination to bless and praise God</u>**!

- **<u>To extol God</u> or to <u>lift Him up in his heart and mind. To make high</u>**! David wants God to be exalted, lifted up, above things first in his own heart, then in the eyes of others!

- **Do we know something of this same determination**? **Are we resolved to praise our God? Is that your desire this morning?**

- **Are we seeking**, "**every day,**" as David says in **verse 2**, to exalt, bless, and praise our God and Savior?

- **In one of his comments on this Psalm, Matthew Henry says,** "**Praising God must be our daily work. No day must pass, though ever so busy a day, though ever so sorrowful a day, without praising God. We ought to reckon it the most needful of our daily employments and the most delightful of our daily comforts**."

- **Is this true of us**? Are we growing in our desire and delight in praising God?

- **I wonder if this might not be an indicator of our Spiritual maturity**.

- Revelation 5:13 **gives us some insight into heaven's activity**!

- "**And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them saying, to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever**!"

- If this is the activity of heaven, we should be getting ready now!

- In Charles Spurgeon's Treasury of David, he says of David's praise here in Psalm 145, "**Praise is a rehearsal of our eternal song**."

- In private or public devotion, **we should practice our eternal song of praise** when we go to be with the LORD! When no sin will stand between us and God!

- **The question is, how often are we rehearsing**?

A Summons of Praise

- In addition to David's resolution, **Psalm 145 is a "summons,"** a call, and a directive **to all of us to do likewise**!

- **You see David is NOT content in praising God alone**!

- His passion and desire for God are stirred, and he requires **that others join** him. We **might say his praise is contagious**!

- **Here is the summons to you and me**!

- **Look at verses 4 – 7. READ verses 4 – 7**.

- The start of verses 5, 6, and 7, the word "They" is used.
- **Who are they**?

- The Psalmist refers to **another generation** of people (We see that, don't we? In **verse 4**)!

- "**One generation shall commend your works to anothe**r."

- Verse 6: "**They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds**. "**They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and sing aloud your righteousness**."

- We know that this Psalm is **NOT simply David's desire or resolution**!

- **We see a desire that all people of all ages would give praise to God!**

- **It is meant for you and me, our children, our grandchildren, every generation**.

- Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we must pass on the knowledge of the true God revealed in Scripture to the next generation!

- We must pass on how He has worked in us and among us! In our lives, we must demonstrate **the desire to praise and worship God and the activity of praising and worshipping God**!

- That is our duty! Our children and our grandchildren are watching!!

- **Are we setting an example of praise and worship for them?**

- **Psalm 145 is a universal call that ALL would give God prai**se!

- It begins a series of the final Psalms, **each beginning and ending** with the words "Praise the Lord!

- Leading up to Psalm 150 (final Psalm).

- Look in your Bibles (**go over first and last first start in Psalm 146**)

- In particular, look at **the last verse of Psalm 150:** "**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"**

- You **CANNOT get more universal than that**!

- **This summons is a great foundation for a children's Sunday school—a Christian School**—so that our generation will commend God and His works to the next generation!

- So the summons extends to each of us!

- We must strive to see that the next generation also "**pours forth the fame**" (Look at verse 7) of God!!!

- So David has both an **individual desire (verse 21), "My mouth will speak," and a corporate desire (verse 21), "let all flesh bless his hold name."**

Model of Praise

- So, we have looked at **David's resolution and David's summons to praise.**

- **Lastly, I would add that at its very core,** Psalm 145 is **a wonderful model**, **or guide**, for us to follow in praising God!

- I know many of us, including me, struggle with how to offer God praise!
- Psalm 145 provides us with help! **It is a wonderful model**!
- **What is David's praise based on**? **This is so vitally important!**
- **What is the foundation of David's Praise?**
- **The character and works of God**!
- **The GOD revealed in Holy Scripture is the object of our worship and Praise!**
- **David says as much in verse 1, "I will extol MY God and King."**
- Here, we should add that praise should be **thoughtful and not some half-hearted or flippant "praise the Lord" expression**!
- David's **praise has its roots and foundation in God's revelation of Himself**!
- Reading Psalm 145, **we sense his wonder and awe** over who God is! As a result, his heart is filled with overflowing! Is that true of us?
- **In verses 1 – 6,** David rejoices in **God's greatness over all things**! **Verse 3:** "**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised**." **Verse 6:** "**I will declare your greatness.**"
- **Verses 7 – 10** David rejoices in **God's goodness expressed in his grace, mercy, patience, and love**! READ **verses 8 and 9**!
- **Verses 11 – 13** David's speaks of **God's eternal Kingdom**
- ("**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom**" in verse 13)
- He speaks of God's **sovereign rule over all things for all eternity**! "**Throughout ALL generations**"
- The remainder of the Psalm speaks of **God's preservation of all those who love him** ("**The Lord preserves all who love him**."),
- **His nearness to all who call upon him and the ultimate destruction of the wicked**.

- **David's heart is overflowing with praise because of who God is**!

- He has a **deep admiration for His God**! As he should, **He has lofty thoughts** of God! Do we?

- It has been said, and I believe it is true, that "**unless we have great thoughts of God, our thoughts of sin will be low, and our praises will be dull**."

- The reality is, brethren, **that this Psalm requires us to examine our hearts and ask ourselves questions**!

- **The question for us right now is, do I have a passion for God, and is it growing**?

- **In other words, do I love to praise God and long to see others exalt and honor God?**

- I am **NOT asking if our passion equals David's**! Though wouldn't that be a wonderful thing!!!

- However, as the years pass, do I **have a similar passion for the Lord, and is it growing**?

- Spurgeon's words are helpful: "**It is NOT for any of us to render David's praise, for David only could do that; but we may take David's Psalm as a model and aim at making our own personal adoration as much like it as possible**."

- While our praise may not be identical to David's, we ought to have our own song of praise!

- Dear brothers and sisters, let us reflect on God's Holy and perfect character. May that inspire us to praise Him!

- There is an old and true saying that you may have heard before. "**Theology leads to Doxology."**

- In other words, biblical truth, especially concerning God's character and attributes, **must lead us to adoration and praise**!

- Oh, that **God would stir us up to a deeper love and adoration of Him**!

- So, I end by simply saying that, by the grace of God, **let us be resolved** to **hear the summons** of Psalm 145 and give to the Lord the glory, honor, and praise that He alone deserves!

- May God help us to do so! - **Prayer**